Strengthening security measures for tackling sea piracy

1736. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after launching a successful strike against pirates in the Gulf of Aden, Navy is set to commission its force in the region by deploying more warships and aircrafts;

(b) whether Navy has also been granted the right of hot pursuit to take up on pirate vessels in Somali waters;

(c) whether Coasts Guards form 10 nations also got licence on tackling antipiracy; and

(d) if so,the concrete measures and steps Government proposes to take to improve the Coast Guard in the Sea shore?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Government has deployed an Indian Naval warship in the Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy patrols. The level of force would depend on review to be made from time to time, and depending upon the progress of international efforts in this regard.

(b) India has been notified as a cooperating State by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, and ships of the Indian Navy are authorized to enter the territorial waters of Somalia to prevent acts of piracy.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which India is also a signatory, all nations exercise jurisdiction over pirates outside the jurisdiction of any State on the high seas. In the Indian waters, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is the nodal agency for tackling piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea. Improvement is an ongoing process.

Harassment of women officers in armed forces

1737. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sexual harassment is increasingly becoming a problem in the highly disciplined armed forces with over 12 such cases since January, 2004;

(b) whether a women army officer has accused a Major General of 'misconduct' in the strategically located Leh area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) WS-00946W Capt Neha Rawat accused Major General AK Lal, Ex General Officer Commanding, 3 Infantry Division of sexual harassment. The General Officer has been tried by General Court Martial and awarded sentence of dismissal subject to confirmation.

New weapons procurement policy

1738. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is willing to implement new weapons procurement policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 54 per cent of procurement in the last fiscal from other countries shows that even after over 57 years of Independence, cutting edge technologies have not been developed in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Defence Procurement Procedure 2008 (DPP-2008) lays down the procedure for the acquisition of capital items for the Armed Forces. Procurement cases in which RFP is issued after 1st September, 2008 are to be processed as per DPP-2008. It includes the procedure relating to the formulation of Services' Qualitative Requirement, Acceptance of Necessity, Solicitation of techno-commercial offers. Evaluation of offers, Commercial negotiation and approval of Competent Financial Authority.

Import option is exercised only when it is necessary to procure an item within a definite time frame on operational grounds to bridge the capability gaps and when such equipment cannot be sourced indigenously. Government is taking all necessary steps to encourage and develop the indigenous capability to design and manufacture sophisticated defence items. Substantial achievements have been made by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in many high technology areas such as Aeronautics, Missiles, Electronic Warfare, Advance Composites, *etc.*

R and D base for indigenous defence equipments

1739. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is laying stress on building a strong R and D base with accountability so that the development of defence equipment within the country is encouraged and dependence on foreign suppliers is minimized;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering extending applicability of the recently promulgated integrity pact for weapons suppliers of deals worth over Rs. 300 crore to deals of more than Rs. 100 crore;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and